

BHATT MURPHY SOLICITORS
PRESS RELEASE
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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

IPCC TO INVESTIGATE BLACK FIREMAN'S POLICE COMPLAINT

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has decided to independently investigate a complaint lodged by a black fireman that he was unlawfully arrested, tasered and racially discriminated against by Metropolitan Police officers. The complaint was originally investigated internally by the Metropolitan Police, against the wishes of the fire-fighter. The IPCC has now, over a year after the investigation into his complaint began, decided to reject the Met's findings and launch an independent investigation due to its concerns regarding the effectiveness of the Met investigation.

The fire-fighter, Mr Edric Kennedy-Macfoy, was driving through Harrow in North-West London on 4 September 2011 when the incident occurred. He lodged a police complaint immediately after his arrest. He was prosecuted for obstructing police officers and found not guilty of any wrongdoing at a trial at Brent Magistrates' Court in February 2012.

Subsequent to that acquittal, on 27 February 2012, he asked the Met police to refer the matter to the IPCC but it refused. After media reports about the incident had appeared in April 2012 the Met police finally decided to refer the matter to the IPCC. However, even then the IPCC decided not to independently investigate the case. This decision therefore comes over a year after Mr Kennedy-Macfoy's acquittal and reverses the initial decision made to allow the Met police to investigate the case.

Historically, it has only been in very rare circumstances that the IPCC has decided to reject the findings of a Met police internal investigation and investigate a complaint itself.

In response to the IPCC's decision **Mr Kennedy-Macfoy** said:

"After all these months I am still waiting to see if any officers will be prosecuted for what happened to me. I hope the IPCC will conduct a thorough investigation. Its failure to take this step at the outset means that it has a lot of work to do to restore my faith in this process".

Mr Kennedy-Macfoy's solicitor **Shamik Dutta** of **Bhatt Murphy** solicitors said:

"This is a vote of no confidence by the IPCC in the Met's ability to investigate its own officers. It is essential that the Home Secretary fulfils her recent commitment to ensuring that serious cases such as this are independently investigated from the outset and that the IPCC is adequately resourced to do so. This is an opportunity for the IPCC to demonstrate that it is capable of doing what the public expects of it."

Notes to Editor

- Previous media coverage on this case can be found [here](#) and [here](#)
- For further information contact Shamik Dutta at Bhatt Murphy by e-mail on s.dutta@bhattmurphy.co.uk

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